

RURAL DISTRICT OF
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR ENDED, 31st DECEMBER, 1950

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) Medical Officer of Health :

(who is in addition Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham, Malmesbury, and the Rural District of Malmesbury).

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

H. J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., who also holds the post of Surveyor.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

S. H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

J. N. Cope, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

The Chairman and Members,

Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 112/50 dated 25th January, 1951.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Taylor and the other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1950

Area (in acres)	86,034
Population	35,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950 according to the Rate Book)	7,961
Rateable Value	£206,898
Sum represented by penny rate	£827

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 E. & W.</i>
Live Births:					
Legitimate ..	251	236	487		
Illegitimate ..	9	14	23		
Total	260	250	510		
Birth Rate				14.5	15.8
Still Births:	5	1	6	0.17	0.37
Deaths:	136	145	281		
Death Rate : ..				7.9	11.6
Deaths from:					
Pregnancy } ..	—	1	1		
Childbirth }					
Abortion }					
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.:					
Legitimate ..	4	3	7		
Illegitimate ..	1	—	1	15.5	29.8
Deaths of Infants under 4 wks.:					
Legitimate ..	4	2	6		
Illegitimate ..	1	—	1		
Deaths from:					
Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	14	26	40		
Measles (all ages) ..	—	—	—		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—		
Influenza	—	—	—		
Respiratory Dis. ..	17	3	20		
Heart diseases and blood vessels ..	76	84	160		

The Birth rate and Death Rate for this year are both lower as compared with the previous year, when the rates expressed per 1,000 of the population were 19.8 and 9.4 respectively. It is gratifying to note that the rate expressed for deaths of infants under one year for 1950 is much lower than it was for the previous year, when it was 23.6 per 1,000 related live births.

Deaths from all Causes

<i>CAUSE</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	2	—	2
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis.. .. .	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm lung Bronchus	4	—	4
Malignant neoplasm breast	—	5	5
Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	16	24
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	—	4	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	23	39
Coronary dis. angina	18	11	29
Hypertension with heart dis.	4	2	6
Other heart disease	33	40	73
Other circulatory disease	5	8	13
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	8	3	11
Bronchitis	7	—	7
Other disease of resp. sys.	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	3	—	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	10	20	30
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of War	—	—	—
Total ..	136	145	281

The above table has been compiled to conform with the International List of Classification of Deaths, Injuries, etc.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)
occurring during the year 1950).

<i>DISEASE</i>					<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	53	48
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	2	2
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	220	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	367	—
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	10	10
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	—	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	11	7
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	8	8
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	5	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	—	—

Of the ten cases of poliomyelitis notified, six were subsequently confirmed. The case of Cerebo-spinal meningitis notified was later confirmed as Pneumonia. The two cases of Diphtheria shown above were not confirmed.

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				1				
15	1	4		1				
25	5	5			1		2	
35	5	1				1		
45	4	1			2			
55	4							
65 and upwards ..								
Total ..	19	11		2	3	1	2	

The above table shews the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, but excludes transfers from other districts. The figure of thirty two cases quoted i.e. 30 pulmonary cases, and two non-pulmonary cases represents an increase in the incidence of the disease as compared with previous years. The total cases notified during 1949 were eleven pulmonary, and ten non-pulmonary. It will be observed also that the disease is occurring amongst young persons in the age groups fifteen to twenty five. The total of five deaths recorded in the year from tuberculosis represents a slight increase over the 1949 figure which was three deaths from pulmonary, and one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

In addition to the figures quoted in the above table, eight persons notified as suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis, and one from the non-pulmonary form of the disease moved into the Rural district from other areas during the year, whilst a total of five notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis left the rural district.

Tuberculosis (Environmental Survey)

During the year an enquiry was made into the environment of notified cases of tuberculosis residing in the Rural District. The investigation was undertaken to ascertain the actual number of notified cases of tuberculosis living in the area; their housing accommodation; the conditions favouring the spread of the disease, and the practical steps being taken to prevent the spread of infection.

As a result of this investigation the number of cases of notified tuberculosis on the Register was reduced from one hundred and ninety seven to one hundred and twenty one. This reduction was due to cases having left the district, died or having recovered.

Of the one hundred and twenty one cases quoted above, eighty three were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, whilst the remaining thirty eight were affected with the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

The figure of eighty three pulmonary cases includes forty nine males and thirty four females. The incidence of the disease predominates in the age group 35-44 for both sexes. Of the forty nine males quoted, twenty one of that number were confirmed as sputum positive cases with a moderate degree of severity. Concerning females, ten of a total of thirty four notified cases were sputum positive with a moderate degree of severity.

With regard to the thirty eight notified cases of non respiratory tuberculosis, eighteen are males and twenty are females, most of whom are suffering from glandular infections.

The following summary shews the actual numbers concerned and the rates expressed per 1,000 of the total civilian population of the Rural District.

Pulmonary cases.

Males	49
Females	34
	—
Total	83
	—

Non-Pulmonary cases.

Males	18
Females	20
	—
Total	38
	—

Rate: 3.0 per 1,000

Rate : 1.3 per 1,000

Grand Total :—121 (which represents a rate of 4.3 per 1,000 of the total population)

Between the years 1943 to 1948 Mass Radiography Units revealed that slightly less than four persons per 1,000 of the total population of England and Wales had active traces of pulmonary tuberculosis. The rate for the Rural District, based on the actual number of *notified* cases with signs of activity, is approximately 1.1 per 1,000 of the total civilian population.

One hundred and sixteen homes of tuberculous persons were visited during this survey, and detailed records have been made which show the precise type of tenancy, state of repair, lighting, ventilation, etc. It was found that 18.1% of all notified cases were occupying Council property; 35.5% were living in private property; 9.4% occupying tied cottages, whilst the remaining 37% were occupying bungalows and other type of property. In 54.6% of cases the property occupied could only be described as either in a fair or poor state of repair. In addition twenty five homes were without adequate lighting and ventilation. Although the general standard of cleanliness and management of the homes concerned was classified as either "very good" or "good," thirty two premises of a total of one hundred and sixteen were without bathroom facilities.

The environment of tuberculous patients is of prime importance both as regards prevention and the future welfare of the patient and his family, and it is with environment that Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils are directly concerned. Periods in a Sanatorium, and the supervision of a clinic cannot alone secure the social and physical welfare of the patients and their families which are necessary for the effective control of the disease.

Good and sufficient housing is essential in preventing tuberculosis both by raising the health of the population generally, and by permitting the infectious pulmonary case to live in conditions on his return from a sanatorium favourable to the maintenance of his health and that of his family.

Mass Radiography

During January, arrangements were made for the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the Area. In Corsham, a total of 905 persons attended for examination. Of that number 36 individuals were found to be suffering from tuberculous conditions; five showing active traces of the disease, and the remaining 31 were classified as "inactive" at the time of examination. A further feature of this investigation was that it revealed that young persons in the age groups 15 to 24 were found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

Food Poisoning

During July an outbreak of food poisoning occurred at a Children's Home involving a total of 43 cases. Faeces and rectal swabs submitted to the Pathologist revealed the organisms of Sonne Dysentery to be present.

A thorough investigation was made in order to ascertain the probable origin of infection or contamination of food. The general standard of hygiene at the Home was unsatisfactory.

All cases had an uneventful recovery after reorganisation and improvements in hygiene.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were represented to the Council during 1950 for action under Section 47 of this Act.

Housing

During the year fifty three applications for tenancies of Council Houses were brought to my notice for review on medical grounds under the Council's points scheme.

Each case was carefully investigated, and in many cases an inspection was made of the applicant's housing accommodation. This action was followed by liaison with the County Chest Physician, and the Council's Housing Manager.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following children completed a full course of immunisation during 1950.

Ages 0-4	192	Ages 5-14	372
Total		564	

The total Immunised Child Population at 31.12.50 is as follows :—

Ages 0—4	1236	Ages 5—14	2834
Total		4070	

Food and Drugs

Following several inspections made at a Food Premises a report was made to the Council detailing the unsatisfactory conditions existing thereat. During December the Council instituted legal proceedings against the owners of the premises for contravention of the provisions of Sec. 13 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and of the Bye-Laws made under Section 15 of the Act.

The case was heard at the Magistrates Court, Chippenham and the defendants were found guilty of five offences under the above Act and Byelaws and fined a sum of £25.

Water Supplies

Mr. R. A. Witham, the Council's Engineer has kindly supplied me with the following technical information concerning water supplies.

Existing Sources of Supply

Widdenham.

No difficulties have been experienced at this station during the year. The source, which is a series of springs in Hungerford Wood, is liable to rather violent fluctuation in yield, but due to the exceptionally wet year there was no shortage of water, although as in past summers, it has become necessary to supplement the yield of the springs with water obtained from the Regional system.

A system of float control is being installed to enable the pumps to be controlled automatically at night. This when working will result in some saving of water and electricity.

Water is pumped from Widdenham to high and low level reservoirs at Rudloe. Two additional high level storage tanks have been erected there but are not yet in use.

The water from this source is chlorinated but not otherwise treated.

Nettleton.

This source is a borehole some 300-ft. deep and is equipped with a submersible pump and a booster pump, both worked automatically by electricity. The water is chlorinated.

During the year the submersible pump was withdrawn for overhaul and a spare unit installed. Unfortunately the replacement pump failed after a few weeks running and had subsequently to be returned to the manufacturers works for testing.

Whilst this station was out of use the supply was maintained from Copenacre by means of the Biddestone Booster Station. This has resulted in some substantial variations in the quantities of water obtained from the various sources as compared with last years figures.

The plant is now running satisfactorily and a spare unit is available for replacement.

Goodshill.

No change has taken place at this station during the year but a scheme is in preparation for replacing the present diesel driven pumps with automatic electric borehole units. The scheme when executed should produce a greater quantity of water than is being obtained at present and at an appreciably lower cost.

14 day continuous pumping test was carried out last autumn. The results are being used in the design of the new plant.

The present supply is not chlorinated but it is proposed to include for this treatment when the station is re-equipped.

Washwells.

This spring supply feeds the lower part of Box by gravity. No difficulties were experienced with this source during the year except that the chlorinating plant has been, as in the past, somewhat erratic in action.

As this source is likely to be retained for many years to come, it is advisable that a more reliable type of apparatus be installed. Weekly tests on the rate of treatment are carried out.

Hilmarton.

This spring gravitational supply has given no serious trouble during the year, the chlorinating plant functioned as well as these small plants generally do. The source cannot be looked upon as very satisfactory and will be abandoned when the Eastern Area Scheme is in existence.

Foxham.

Some trouble has been experienced at one of the springs feeding this area. It appears that the pipe line from the spring head to the collecting chamber is partially corroded up. The exact location of the pipe and source is uncertain so that repair work would be difficult and expensive. With the provision of the Eastern Area Scheme this source will be abandoned. It is hoped the present conditions can be maintained until that time.

The supply is chlorinated.

Wick Hill.

This small spring source has apparently been falling off in yield in recent years. It is unchlorinated and supplies a few consumers only. It will be abandoned with the completion of the Eastern Area Scheme.

Slaughterford.

This source is privately owned and is unchlorinated. The Council take the overflow and distribute it in the village. With the extension of the Regional Supply to Ford it is possible to abandon this source and lay a new main from the Ford extension to the village. A scheme on these lines will be submitted to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning for approval this year.

Chippenham Borough.

The greater part of the water supply of the area is obtained from Chippenham Borough; the bulk supplies being taken at Yewstock, at Monks Lane and Copenacre, Corsham.

Washwells Booster Station.

A duplicate pumping plant is being installed at this station which supplies Kingsdown reservoir.

Distribution

During the year a contract for £31,622 has been placed with the Belgravia Construction & General Contractors Ltd. for the Western Area Water Scheme. The contract includes the following extensions :—

1. North Wraxall, etc.
2. West Kington Wick.
3. Ford.
4. Allington.
5. Leigh Delamere.
6. Stanton St. Quintin.
7. Langley Burrell (link main).
8. Upper and Lower Seagry.
9. Goatacre and New Zealand.
10. Wadswick.
11. Box (extension of high level main along Devizes Road).
12. Hill Corner.

Of these schemes substantial progress has been made on the Langley Burrell link main, Ford and Stanton St. Quintin; although by the 31st March none of the schemes had been completed.

Since the contract was let the Council have agreed to lay service mains on the Air Ministry's site for 42 houses at Stanton St. Quintin. This work is being carried out as an extra under the contract.

It is anticipated that the extension to Hill Corner will not be required as the Borough of Chippenham propose laying a 9" main in that area.

A small extension has also been laid by the Department at Hilmarion to supply the new housing site.

No special difficulties were encountered during the year in connection with distribution. Due to the policy of ordering well ahead of requirements no appreciable holdups from lack of materials have been experienced.

New Capital Works

Application will be made during the coming year for loan sanction for water main extensions to Avon, Long Dean, Slaughterford and at Goatacre Lane.

The Eastern Area Water Scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Local Government & Planning and to the other interested Authorities for approval. The scheme which is estimated to cost £120,300 will afford supplies in the parishes of Calne Without, Cherhill, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton, Bremhill, Pewsham and Lacock. In addition provision has been made for bulk supplies to Calne Borough and Devizes R.D.C., although the former have since withdrawn from participation in the scheme.

Distribution of Public Supplies

<i>Parish.</i>						<i>Sources.</i>
Biddestone	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Slaughterford
Box	..	..	..	..	..	Widdenhams Washwells
Bremhill	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Wick Hill Foxham
Calne Without	..	..	..	..	..	—
Castle Combe	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Cherhill	..	..	..	..	..	—
Chippenham Without	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Christian Malford	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Colerne	..	..	..	..	..	Widdenhams
Compton Bassett	..	..	..	..	..	R.A.F.
Corsham	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Widdenhams Goodshill
Grittleton	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Heddington	..	..	..	..	..	—
Hilmarton	..	..	..	..	..	Hilmarton
Kington Langley	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Kington St. Michael	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Lacock	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Goodshill
Langley Burrell Without	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Nettleton	..	..	..	..	..	Nettleton
North Wraxall	..	..	..	..	..	—
Pewsham	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Stanton St. Quintin	..	..	..	..	..	—
Sutton Benger	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Yatton Keynell	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough

Note.—The West Gloucestershire Water Company supply the village of Burton in the parish of Nettleton.

Salisbury General Infirmary Pathological Department

Phone : Salisbury 2950

Pathologist : L. H. Douglas Thornton, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

REPORT on the Analysis of a Sample of Water received on 4.1.50 at 10.30 a.m. from Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council Collecting Chamber at Widdenham. Before Chlorination. 11 a.m. on 3.1.50.

Physical Characters Excellent

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Reaction	Alkaline p.H. 7.3
Saline and free Ammonia	Nil.
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia.	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27°C.	0.007
Chlorides	3.8
Nitrogenous nitrates	0.2
Total Hardness	27.6
(a) Temporary	21.3
(b) Permanent	6.3
Poisonous Metals	Nil
Nitrates	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	Nil

Opinion: Chemical examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date : 7.1.50

Pathologist

Salisbury General Infirmary
Pathological Department

Phone : Salisbury 2950

Pathologist : L. H. Douglas Thornton, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

REPORT on Bacteriological Examination of Water received on 20.4.50 at 9.30 from Inlet Chamber, Widdenham. Calne and Chippenham R.D.C.

1. Bacteriological Count

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : Nil per 1 m.l. of water

2. B. Coli Counts.

at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours.

Quantity of water tested:	Acid and gas from lactose	
	at 37°C.	44°C.
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—

As result of calculation made from above

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. Nil
- (2) „ „ Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C.—Nil

Opinion: Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date : 24.4.50

Pathologist

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Biddestone.

A combined sewer and surface water drain exists in this Parish, a part being laid with pipes, whilst another section comprises a stone drock, a short length of this drock has been relaid with pipes. The sewer receives crude slop water drainage and the overflow of cesspools and septic tanks. The water course running through the village receives the outfall of the sewer and during the normal flow of this water course, complaints are non-existent, but as soon as the dry weather approaches, nuisances arise.

A proper sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

Box (Main Sewer Outfall).

The outfall discharges into lagoons at Mill Lane, from which the effluent overflows into a system of irrigation channels before reception in the Box Brook.

The effluent is diverted periodically to allow aeration, cleansing, etc. of the channels, while others are in use. The works are obsolete and do not conform in any respect with modern practice of sanitary engineering. Samples of effluent taken in the past have shown that it does not conform with accepted standards for discharge into streams.

Only the village proper is sewered, except for two small areas, which are served with two local sewage disposal installations. These are situated at the Bassets and Middle Hill, where groups of houses drain into covered settlement tanks, with effluents discharging over filter beds of slag media. The Middle Hill Works deal with a weak sewage as compared with other works, owing to the large volume of storm water conveyed by the sewer.

A new sewerage scheme for this Parish is in course of preparation.

Bremhill, Calne (Without), Cherhill, Chippenham, (Without), Christian Malford, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton, Langley Burrell (Without), Nettleton and North Wraxall.

There are no sewerage systems in these Parishes, although a small scheme for the sewerage of Theobalds Green in Calne Without Parish has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. The larger properties are dependent upon small drainage disposal installations while occupiers of the smaller dwellings have to be content with the conservancy system and disposal of waste water in the garden. In some cases, however, ditches or water courses are used for the conveyance of drainage, and this often results in the production of nuisances and pollution of water supplies.

Castle Combe.

A combined sewer and surface water drain discharging into the stream comprises the sewerage system of the Parish. The major portion of the houses have slop-water drains connected thereto while the closet accommodation is of the conservancy system. A twice weekly emptying of pail closet is undertaken by the Council for the village.

A combined sewerage scheme for this area and for Yatton Keynell has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

Colerne.

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated in this Parish were constructed to serve the local R.A.F. establishment. Sewers have now been laid in the village and the works extended to meet the increased flow.

Corsham.

These works are the largest in the district. During the year no special difficulty has been experienced although the disposal of sludge is always a problem at these Works.

Grittleton.

There is no proper system of sewerage in this Parish, although there are lengths of drains in the main street in the village proper and at Littleton Drew, which act as sewers and receive the drainage from those properties connected to them. In each case the outfalls discharge into open water courses. This is not satisfactory and a sewerage scheme has been advocated for Littleton Drew where sanitary conditions are more acute. Also a scheme for the sewerage of the village of Grittleton has been prepared.

Kington Langley.

Apart from a small sewer in the centre of the village, which serves only a few properties, the Parish is not sewered. The sewer discharges into a cesspool on private land and overflows into a channel in a field for irrigation. This seldom causes any trouble.

There are one or two ditches into which overflows from drains and cesspools discharge, and these are cleansed periodically by the Council. A new sewerage scheme is required and preliminary work on its preparation has commenced.

Kington St. Michael.

This Parish possesses two separate sewers and each has a different outfall. One discharges into a ditch running through grazing land at the lower end of the village, whilst the other discharges into a ditch adjoining the allotments in the upper part of the village. The sewage is received in both ditches in an untreated condition. A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for this area is in course of preparation.

Lacock.

The main Sewage Disposal Works receive the sewage from the major portion of the Parish. Part of the sewage is pumped whilst the rest is by gravitation. The works have always functioned satisfactorily during the year.

There are subsidiary works at Bewley Lane. The outfall empties into a settlement tank, from which the effluent overflows on to an aerating stair. The effluent is then received into a system of irrigating channels which are used alternatively. These works continue to function satisfactorily and the irrigation land absorbs all the effluent.

Pewsham, Stanton St. Quintin and Sutton Benger.

There are no proper systems of sewers existing in these four Parishes. Each Parish has lengths of pipes and ditches serving as sewers, but these are not efficient and require constant attention.

The ditches were originally surface water channels, which in the process of time, have slowly been converted into nothing less than sewers, conveying untreated sewage.

The closet accommodation in these Parishes is mainly of the conservancy system.

Yatton Keynell.

There are several lengths of old sewers in the Parish which discharge into ditches. The present system is incomplete and unsatisfactory. A scheme of sewerage for the village has been prepared. It is intended to provide one disposal works for both Yatton Keynell and for Castle Combe.

Cesspool Emptyier.

The Council's cesspool emptying vehicle undertakes the emptying of septic tanks on the Council's housing sites and also undertakes similar work for private owners. A charge is made for this service.

The vehicle is also used for collecting the contents of pail closets at Castle Combe.

REPORT
of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector
for the year ended
31st December, 1950

*To the Chairman and Members of the Calne and
Chippenham Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1950.

The routine work of the department has continued steadily through the year and the activities of the staff have further improved the sanitary circumstances of the district.

Unfortunately, no appreciable improvement of existing house property has been possible owing to the over-riding need for additional new homes. The present building licensing regulations, which restrict an owner to spending not more than £100 per year on any one property, unless a building licence is obtained from the local authority, prevents any major progress in the reconditioning of house property being made. This is having a serious effect on the general standard of housing accommodation in the Council's area. Unless this gradual decline in housing standards is arrested many more houses will be scheduled eventually for demolition.

Particular attention has been paid to the inspection of Ice-cream premises during the year and I am pleased to report that there has been a welcome improvement in the manufacture storage and sale of this product.

Many Shops have been visited to ensure that they are provided with suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, a reasonable temperature and proper sanitary accommodation for the employees.

Food premises, bake-houses, catering establishments and dairies have been kept under review and a limited number of inspections of Licensed Premises have been made. I am hoping to prepare a detailed report on Licensed Premises in 1951.

Regular inspections of Factories have been made and it has only been necessary to write to 8 occupiers, asking for improvements to these premises.

The general living accommodation of outworkers continues to be satisfactory and no action has been required to improve home conditions or enforce the discontinuance of homework.

The routine work of sampling of the Council's public water supplies has continued throughout the year and the results of such samples are set out in detail later in this report.

Such matters as refuse collection and disposal; infectious disease prevention; rodent destruction; control of tents, vans and sheds; nuisances, are dealt with in greater detail in my general report.

I should like to express my thanks to Dr. Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health, for his advice and co-operation, which have contributed to the work of the Public Health Department functioning smoothly and effectively.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits for Year 1950

General Sanitation.

Water Supply	119
Drainage	291
Stables and Piggeries	2
Fried Fish Shops	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds	114
Factories. Power & N.P.	96
Workplaces	2
Outworkers	35
Bakehouses	19
Public Conveniences	20
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	2
Refuse Collection	223
Refuse Disposal	134
Rats and Mice	14
Schools	12
Shops	64
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	315
Nuisances	212
Water Samples	253
Sanitary Survey	1359

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts—	
No of Houses Inspected	27
Visits paid to above Houses	80
Under Housing Acts—	
No. of Houses inspected	75
Visits paid to above houses	80
Overcrowding—	
No. of Houses inspected	6
Visits paid to above houses	3
Verminous Premises—	
No. of Houses Inspected	3
Visits paid to above houses	6
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	48

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in Cases of I.D.	69
Visits re Disinfection	38
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	306

Meat and Food Inspection.

Inspection of Meat—	
Visits to Slaughterhouses	3
Visits to Shops and Stalls	5

Visits to—									
Butchers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fishmongers and Poulterers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grocers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cowsheds .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dairies and milkshops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Ice-cream premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Food preparing premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Market Stalls .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Restaurants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
									<hr/>
Licensed Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Visits in connection with sampling—									
Milk—Bacteriological .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Milk—Tubercle Bacilli .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous Food Visits .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
									<hr/>
									4370
									<hr/>

Water Supply

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 138 (amended by Water Act, 1945). Section 30.

Four Statutory Notices were served on owners of houses requiring these to be provided with a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the occupants: they were complied with.

In one case, the work was carried out by the Council in default, and the cost charged to the owner.

Other connections to the Council's water mains were made as a result of informal notices.

Unsatisfactory Water Supply from Deep Well at Lower Wadswick, Box.

Complaints having been received of the unsatisfactory condition of the water of this well, supplying 14 properties in Lower Wadswick, bacteriological samples were taken and the analyst's report indicated that the water was unfit for drinking purposes. The Council gave immediate instructions for water to be hauled to these premises, until the proposed new water main had been laid.

Church Lane, Box.

A private water supply serving several properties in Church Lane, Box, was found to be unfit for drinking purposes, and the Council agreed to require the owners of these properties to connect to a public water main when the existing main had been replaced by a larger one.

Water Samples

Regular samples of water are taken from the Council's various water undertakings and submitted to the Salisbury Pathological Laboratories, for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis.

Details of Water Samples.

	<i>Fit</i>	<i>Suspect</i>	<i>Unfit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Wick Hall (unchlorinated springs) . .	—	2	2	4
Compton Bassett R.A.F. supply . .	12	—	—	12
Goodshill, Corsham. Spring Supply	2	5	1	8
Stockham Marsh, Foxham. Springs	2	1	1	4
Springs at Catcombe, Hilmarton	12	—	—	12
Nettleton Borehole	11	1	—	12
Slaughterford Springs	2	1	—	3
Washwells, Box. Springs after chlorination	10	4	3	17
Widdenham	32	3	3	38
Yatesbury, R.A.F. supply	11	1	—	12
Regional supply. Borough source	13	1	—	14
Samples taken from private supplies	7	8	25	40
Calne Borough Supply	1	—	—	1
Heddington borehole	1	1	—	2
	116	28	35	179

In addition, 18 samples of water from various sources were submitted for chemical analysis.

Eastern Parishes Water Scheme

Sanitary Survey of Properties within a reasonable distance of proposed new Water Main Extensions.

Areas.

Derry Hill	Sandy Lane
Studley	Wans Corner
Part of Stanley	Heddington
Chilvester Hill	Broads Green
Ratford	Stockley
Bremhill	Blacklands
Charlcutt	Calstone
Spirthill	Cherhill
	Compton Bassett
	Highway
	Clevancy

A comprehensive survey of domestic property and farm premises within the above-mentioned areas, to be provided with a piped supply of water, was undertaken, from which the undermentioned information was obtained :—

Summary of Whole Area

Water Supply

No. Percentage

No. of houses served by :—

(a)	Private shallow well	..	..	..	376	58.9%
(b)	Public shallow well	..	..	..	11	1.7%
(c)	Private mains	..	..	..	138	21.7%
(d)	Public mains	..	..	..	7	1.1%
(e)	Standpipe on public or private main	..	..	..	30	4.7%
(f)	Private spring	..	..	..	75	11.8%

Drainage.

No. of houses served by :—

(a)	Public sewer	..	..	..	—	—
(b)	Septic tanks	..	..	..	115	18%
(c)	Cesspool	..	..	..	71	11.2%
(d)	Soakaway	..	..	..	76	12%
(e)	Field surface	..	..	..	44	7%
(f)	Ditch	..	..	..	195	30.7%
(g)	Brook	..	..	..	15	2.3%
(h)	No drainage facilities	..	..	..	121	19%

Closet Accommodation.

(a)	Water closets	..	..	..	118	18.3%
(b)	Pail Closets	..	..	..	480	75.4%
(c)	Privies	..	..	..	22	3.4%
(d)	Chemical closets	..	..	..	18	2.8%

Baths

Number of houses having fixed baths	182	28.4%
-------------------------------------	----	----	-----	-------

Population.

Population to be served by proposed new main	2181	—
--	------	---

Schools.

	<i>No. of Pupils</i>		
Heddington	46
Calstone	40
Cherhill	45
Derry Hill	62
Bremhill	31

Farm Premises.

No. of Farms	..	..	..	62
No. of Milk Producers	..	..	..	58
No. of T.T. Licences	..	..	..	14
No. of Accredited Licences	..	..	..	15
No. of Ordinary Producers	..	..	..	28

Live Stock.

No. of Cattle	..	..	..	..	..	2986
No. of Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	200
No. of Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	394
No. of Horses	..	..	..	..	..	68

Requirements.

No. of Farms—

(a) With sufficient supply	..	..	..	..	23
(b) (i) Requiring immediate connection	..	..	..	..	25
(b) (ii) Requiring 2nd year connection	..	..	..	..	1
(b) (iii) Requiring 3rd year connection	..	..	..	..	—
(c) Requiring supply for parts of farm	..	..	..	..	13

The survey revealed that 60% of the properties obtained water from shallow wells, the water from which, in many instances, was found unfit for drinking purposes.

28% of the properties obtained water from private or public water mains and 12% from private springs.

No public sewers were found to exist, and 71% of the properties drained to soakaways, ditches, brooks, or had no drainage facilities at all.

Only 29% had satisfactory drainage facilities such as septic tanks and cesspools.

82% of the houses were provided with Earth Closets or Privies.

Less than 30% of the properties were provided with baths.

Sewerage

Castle Combe—Collection of Night Soil.

Collections by contract continued until 31st January, 1950, when they were continued by direct labour, using the Council's own cesspool-emptying vehicle.

Drainage arrangements in Colerne

Tutten Hill.

Owners of Nineteen properties had been required to connect to the Council's sewer. 7 were connected upon informal notices being served and Statutory Notices served in respect of the remaining 12. During the year 11 of these notices were complied with and in the remaining case the work was carried out by the Council in default. All the properties in Tutten Hill are now connected to the sewer.

Remainder of Colerne.

The survey made in 1949 showed a total of 96 properties with unsatisfactory drainage which were within 100 feet of the Council's sewer, and informal notices were served on owners.

Of these, 60 have now been connected, leaving 36 to be dealt with during 1951.

Corsham.

A drainage nuisance occurred at Velley Hill and this was abated by connection of two houses to the sewer, after the service of a Statutory Notice on the owner.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes for the Parishes of Biddestone, Castle Combe and Yatton Keynell.

Surveys of existing drainage arrangements in the above parishes have been made in order to obtain information to support the Council's application to the Ministry of Health (now Ministry of Local Government and Planning) for sanction to proceed with sewerage schemes prepared by the Council's Engineer.

Information obtained—

Biddestone.

Number of Properties—	..	..	..	116
Number of Occupiers—				
Over 10 years of age	..	..	..	285
Under 10 „ „ „	..	..	..	50

Drainage Arrangements.

To combined highway drain and sewer	..	83	71.55%
Septic Tank	.. .. .	16	13.79%
Cesspool or Soakaway	.. .. .	7	6.03%
Ditch	.. .. .	3	2.58%
No drainage—slop water thrown on gardens		7	6.03%
			<hr/>
	Total ..		99.98%

Closet Accommodation.

Water Closets	.. .. .	32	26.01%
Pail Closets	.. .. .	78	63.41%
Elsan Closets	5	4.06%
Privy Closets	8	6.50%
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total ..	123	99.98%

Number of Baths	35	21.55%
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Water Supply.

Main public supply in house	81
„ by public standpipes	19
Wells	16

Castle Combe.

No. of Properties within 100 feet of proposed sewer	82	(including school)
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Population.

Over 10 years of age ..	210
Under 10 „ „ „ ..	41
Total ..	<hr/> 251 <hr/>

Type and No. of Closets.

Water Closets	17	18.88%
Pail Closets	51	56.66%
Elsan Closets	5	5.55%
Privy Vaults.. .. .	11	12.22%
School Pails	6	6.66%
Total ..	<hr/> 90 <hr/>	<hr/> 99.97% <hr/>

No of Houses with fixed baths	30	36.58%
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Means of Drainage.

Septic Tanks	9	10.97%
Cesspools or Soakaways	18	21.95%
Combined drains discharging to brook ..	16	19.51%
Combined highway drain and sewer to brook	12	14.63%
Private drains discharging direct to brook	17	20.73%
Roadside ditch	3	3.65%
To surface of ground	3	3.65%
No drainage (Slop water thrown on gardens)	4	4.87%
Total ..	<hr/> 82 <hr/>	<hr/> 99.96% <hr/>

Water Supply.

Public main connected to service pipe in house	53
Public Standpipes	25
Wells	4
Total ..	<hr/> 82 <hr/>

Yatton Keynell.

Number of Properties Surveyed (excluding School)	75
--	----

Number of Occupiers.

Over 10 years of age	195
Under 10 „ „ „	39
Total ..	<hr/> 234 <hr/>

Drainage Arrangements.

To Highway drain	..	..	..	..	21	28.00%
Septic tanks	..	..	..	..	22	29.33%
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	7	9.33%
Soakaways	..	..	..	..	7	9.33%
Ditch	..	..	..	..	8	10.66%
No drainage; waste water thrown on garden					10	13.33%	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	
				Total	..	75	99.98%
						<hr/>	<hr/>

Closet Accommodation.

Water Closets	..	..	..	..	32	40.00%
Pail Closets ..	..	..	..	..	27	33.75%
Elsan Closets	..	..	..	..	8	10.00%
Privy Vaults..	..	..	..	..	13	16.25%
					<hr/>	<hr/>
				Total ..	80	100.00%
						<hr/>

Number of Fixed Baths	31	41.33%
-----------------------	----	----	----	----	--------

Means of Water Supply.

Connected to public main	..	..	43
Obtaining water from standpipes		..	15
Well water	..	..	16

School.

<i>Pupils</i>	<i>Closet Accommodation</i>	<i>Drainage</i>
40	4 Pails and 1 Urinal	To highway and sewer drain

Public Conveniences

The Council has two Public Conveniences at Corsham and one at Box.

Two part-time attendants are employed to supervise and maintain these.

Many slot machines have been damaged or removed and although the Police have been notified, it has not been possible to find the offenders.

The interior walls of these buildings are continually disfigured by lewd writings and drawings.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

As from the 1st April, 1950, refuse has been collected by direct labour, the Council using one 10-cubic yard and one 7-cubic yard Bedford Refuse Collection Vehicle.

8 men are employed to collect and dispose of refuse collected in the Council's district.

For a time this method of collection effected a considerable improvement in the service provided, but recently the large increase in the number of houses from which refuse has to be collected, and the additional demands made by Service Departments, has caused some difficulty. The Council has, however, agreed to purchase an additional 10-cubic yard Bedford Refuse Collection Vehicle and with additional labour this should rectify the position.

All refuse is tipped in old quarries, disused sand pits, etc., and every effort is made to level and cover the refuse on the day of disposal.

During the year the tip at West Yatton caught fire and it was impossible to use it for most of the year.

A new tip in an old quarry at Middle Lane, Biddestone, was started and this was used for the disposal of refuse previously taken to the West Yatton tip.

Refuse Costs.

Estimated Population 26,720

Total Estimated Annual Cost of Refuse Service				£3,881
Estimated cost of collection only	..	..	..	£2,578
" " " disposal	..	..	..	£1,303
				£ s. d.
Cost of collection per 1,000 population	..	..	..	96 10 0
" " disposal	..	..	..	48 14 0
				<hr/>
				£145 4 0
				<hr/>
Cost per head of population of collection	..	..	..	1/11.16d.
" " " " " disposal	..	..	..	11.688d.
				<hr/>
				2/10.848d.
				<hr/>
Tonnage of Refuse collected and disposed of	..	..	..	5,252
				s. d.
Cost per ton of refuse collected	..	..	..	9 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
" " " " disposed of	..	..	..	4 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
				<hr/>
Total				14 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
				<hr/>

Supply of Dustbins.

The Council continued to supply dustbins to householders in the district at cost price and 147 bins were supplied during the year. The increased cost of bins has necessitated raising the charge to £1 (including delivery).

Statutory notices were served on occupiers of 9 houses requiring the provision of bins and these were complied with.

71 informal notices were served, 59 of which were complied with during the year.

Litter Baskets.

10 wire cage litter baskets were supplied and fixed by the Council in the parishes of Calne Without, Castle Combe, Corsham and Colerne in an endeavour to keep the streets free from litter.

Salvage

Waste Paper.

As from 14th August, waste paper was again collected throughout the whole of the Council's district. Two trailers have been purchased and attached to the refuse collection vehicles.

The amounts of paper collected are as follows :—

			<i>Cwts.</i>
January	..	..	176
February	..	..	160
March	..	..	180
April	..	..	135
May	..	..	167
June	..	..	209
July	..	..	180
August	..	..	175
September	..	..	213
October	..	..	200
November	..	..	169
December	..	..	166

2,130 = 106 tons 10 cwts.

Value — £361.4.6

A bonus scheme to encourage the collection of waste paper came into operation from the 1st December.

Kitchen Waste.

This is collected privately in part of the Council's district and during the year collections were commenced in Corsham Road and Notton Park Bungalows, Lacock, and Beechfield and Woodlands Bungalows, Corsham.

Offensive Trades

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no Offensive Trade Establishments as defined by Section 107 of the P.H.A. 1936, within the area of the Council.

Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

Fried Fish Shops

One new Fish and Chip Shop has been opened during the year, in the Parish of Langley Burrell Without. This is a new building and complies with the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Movable Dwellings

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269.

Licences authorising persons to erect or station and use movable dwellings.

35 licences were issued to station and use movable dwellings within the area of the Council for the period of 12 months, as compared with 19 in 1949.

5 Applications were refused.

No licences have been issued by the Council authorising persons to allow land occupied by them to be used as sites for moveable dwellings.

Infestations

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Filthy and Verminous Premises or Articles and Verminous Persons.

Very few cases of verminous premises were notified, but such cases as were reported, received the appropriate treatment.

Persons suspected of being verminous attend at St. Andrew's Hospital, Chippenham.

The Council's refuse tips received regular treatments and no complaints were reported.

Food and Drug Act, 1938. Sections 13, 14 and 15

Byelaws re handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air.

(Made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

The Council adopted the above-mentioned byelaws on the 20th March, 1950, and they were confirmed by the Minister of Food on 25th May, 1950, to come into operation on 3rd July, 1950.

95 inspections of food premises were made and of the 7 informal notices served, requiring work to be done, 5 were complied with.

It was necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of food premises at Westwells, Corsham, for contraventions of Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Byelaws re handling, wrapping and delivery of food, etc.

Eight summonses were issued and convictions were obtained on the charges of:—

Failing to cleanse the Bacon Room (Section 13).

Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contamination by flies.

Failing to cause the Bread Store to be cleansed.

Failing to cause the delivery van to be cleansed.

The last three charges were under the byelaws.

The Bench, in announcing their decision, said that they formed the view that some of the charges arose out of circumstances similar to those in which they were convicting on other charges.

Registration of Premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of Preserved Foods, etc.

Five premises are registered under the Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, manufacture and sale of sausages and cooked meats, situated in the parishes of Box, Corsham and Calne Without.

All these premises were maintained in very satisfactory conditions.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

Registration of Premises used in connection with the manufacture or Sale of Ice-Cream.

Premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of Ice-cream

(a)	Cold mix method	..	..	..	2
(b)	Hot mix method	..	..	..	3

Premises registered for the storage or sale of Ice-cream.

15 additional premises were registered for the sale or storage of ice-cream and the total number so registered is now 43.

All the above-mentioned registered premises have been regularly inspected and 156 visits have been made to ascertain whether the regulations have been complied with.

Ice-cream Sampling.

119 Ice-cream samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Salisbury General Infirmary.

As a result of the application of the Methylene Blue Test the samples were placed in the following Provisional Grades :—

50	in Provisional Grade	I	Satisfactory
37	"	" II	"
16	"	" III	Reasonably satisfactory
16	"	" IV	Unsatisfactory

119 Total

Catering Establishments

Close liaison is kept with the local office of the Ministry of Food concerning the provision of catering establishments.

18 additional premises have been licensed by the District Office of the Ministry, after certificates have been issued from this department stating that the premises were suitable for the purpose.

136 catering establishments are now licensed in the district.

Bake Houses

The 14 Bake-houses within the rural district have received regular visits during the year.

The bakehouse at "Jessamine Bakery", Kingsdown, Box, ceased to function as such during the latter half of 1950.

Condemned Foods, 1950

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned during the year for the reasons stated in the third column.

<i>Food</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Peas	20 lbs. 9 oz.	Blown & damaged tins
Baked Beans	3 lbs.	" " " "
Fish Paste	8½ ozs.	Damaged jars & mould
Benger's Food	2lbs.	Damaged tin, infested with maggots
Bacon	8½ lbs.	Putrefaction

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 57

Licensing of Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards.

One Knacker's Yard situated at Heddington was licensed under the above regulations.

The premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition and no complaints have been received concerning offensive smells.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Section 3.

One slaughterman's licence was issued to the slaughterman employed at the Knacker's Hard, Heddington. He was a man over the age of 18 years, and in the Council's opinion a fit and proper person to hold such a licence.

Housing

Inspection of Houses under Housing Acts 1936-49 and Public Health Act, 1936

It has not been possible to take any extensive formal action under Section 9 or 11 of the Housing Act, owing to the shortage of existing housing accommodation and because of the difficulties created by the continued need for building licences to execute work exceeding £100 in value on house property in any one year.

A large number of complaints concerning unsatisfactory housing conditions have been received and 43 owners of property have been requested to carry out urgent repair work. 23 informal notices have been complied with.

Owners of 3 houses which were reported as being incapable of repair at reasonable cost, gave undertakings not to re-let these unless the houses were repaired to the satisfaction of the Council.

328 inspections and visits were made to house property during the year.

Shops Act, 1950. Section 38

Arrangements for Health and Comfort of Shop Workers.

99 Shops were inspected during the year to ascertain whether these premises were provided with suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, a reasonable temperature, and proper sanitary accommodation for the employees.

Milk

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Section 8.

Registration of Dairies other than Dairy Farms, and of Distributors.

Number of Registered Dairies	11
„ „ „ Distributors	24

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealer's licences to use special designation " Pasteurised."	7
No. of Dealer's supplementary licences designation " Pasteurised."	9

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealer's licences to use special designation " Tuberculin Tested."	6
No. of dealer's supplementary licences designation " Tuberculin Tested."	7

Inspections.

37 inspections of dairies have been made,

Milk Samples.

Milk samples were submitted for examination as follows :—

Methylene Blue Test.

<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Total</i>
11	1	12

Phosphatase.

<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	—	1

Biological (Tuberculosis).

<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Total</i>
7	—	7

Factories Act, 1937, Section 34

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Two certificates of means of escape in case of fire were issued in respect of factory premises at Neston Glove Factory, Corsham, and Messrs. Hinchley Engineering Co. (1949) Ltd. at Hopkins's Garage, Lacock.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	20	24	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	64	72	6	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total ..		84	96	8	—	

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Re- medied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)		—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	6	1	1	—	1	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7 :—							
(a) insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	6	6	—	3	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ..		8	8	—	4	—	

Outworkers

Factories Act, 1937. Section 110.

The occupiers of factories are requested to supply to the Council in the months of February and August, a list of outworkers employed by them during the preceding six months.

58 persons are employed as outworkers.

35 inspections have been made of outworkers' living accommodation.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council's Rodent Operator was fully employed, making surveys of premises and works, and executing treatments where rats or mice were found to be present.

More than 800 initial inspections were made prior to commencement of detailed treatments.

Two maintenance treatments were given to the sewers and sewage disposal works at Colerne and Corsham and the results of such treatments proved satisfactory.

One maintenance treatment was given to the Box sewers and sewage works.

Test baiting was carried out to the sewers and sewage disposal works at Bowden Hill and Lacock and "no takes" were reported, indicating that the sewers were free from rat infestation at the time of the treatments.

A similar test baiting was carried out to the Box sewers and sewage disposal works and at the time of this test baiting the sewers were considered free from infestation.

Regular treatments were given to the Council's refuse tips and although many of these were highly successful, experience has shown the need for repeated inspections and treatments of such property as re-infestation often occurred.

20% of the Rodent Operator's time was spent with the Borough of Calne and a proportion of his expenses are recovered from that authority.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Name of Local Authority :

Calne and Chippenham R.D.C.

County :

Wilts.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

TYPE OF PROPERTY	Number of properties in Local Authority's Area in which infestation was				Analysis of Column (iv)		
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	Number infested by		
					(v)	(vi)	(vii)
	Total	Notified by Occupier	Other-wise discovered	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii)	Rats		Mice only
					Major	Minor	
Local Authority's Property ..	40	41	—	41	11	30	—
Dwelling House	7770	30	6	36	5	22	9
Business Premises	274	15	7	22	7	11	4
Agricultural Property ..	507	2	—	2	—	2	—
Total ..	8,591	88	13	96	23	65	13

2. Measures of Control by Local Authority

TYPE OF PROPERTY	No. of proper- ties inspected	No. of inspec- tions made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Section 6 (1) or by informal arrangements		
					By arrange- ment with Occupier	Under Section 5 (1)					
			Treat- ments	Works	Rats	Mice only	Rats	Mice only	Number of Blocks	Surface	Associated sewers
Local Authority's Property	57	77	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—	
Dwelling House ..	490	493	—	—	27	9	—	—	—	—	
Business Premises ..	192	192	—	—	18	4	—	—	—	—	
Agricultural Property ..	5	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	744	767	—	—	88	13	—	—	—	—	

